

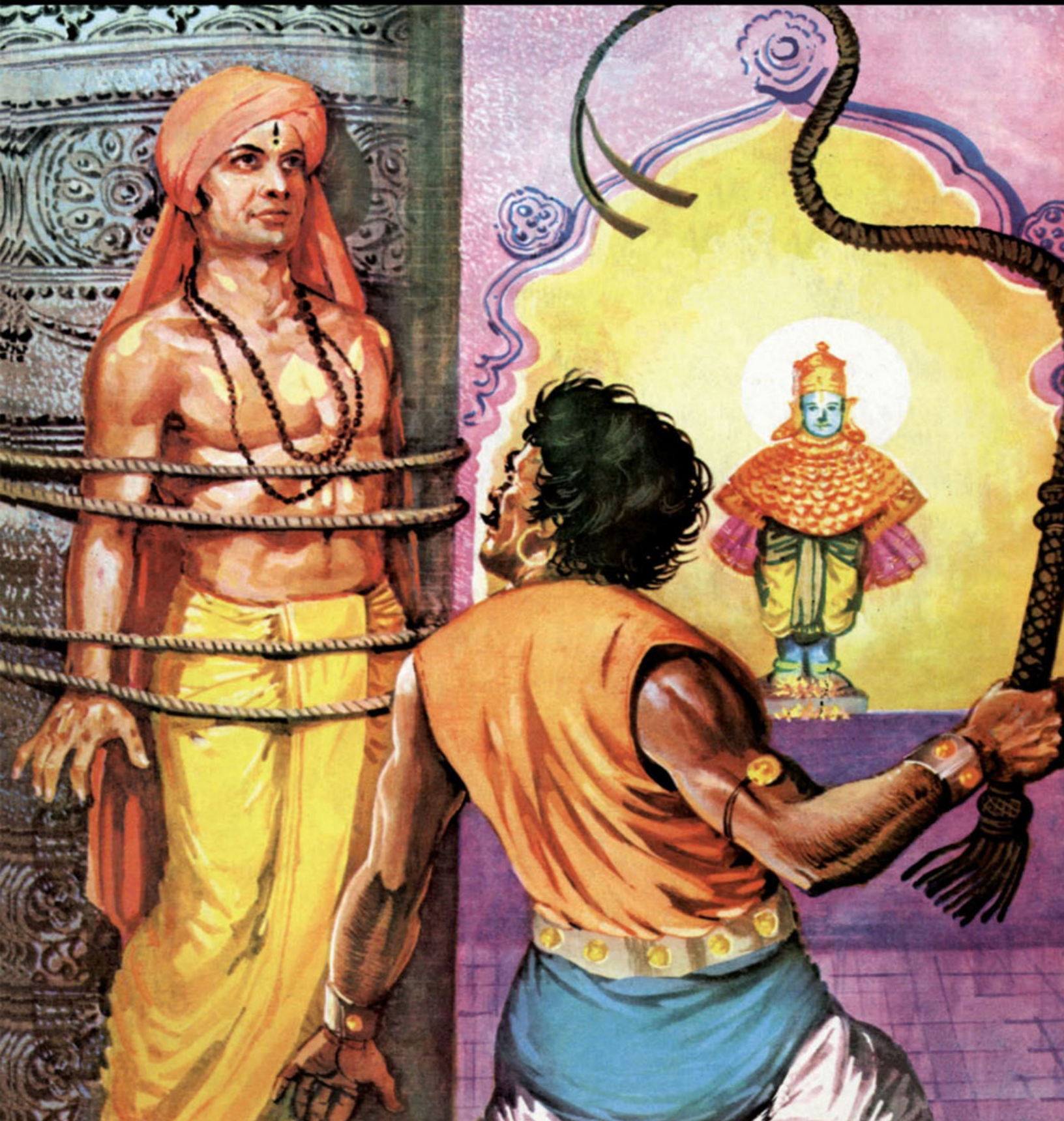


PURANDARA DASA

THE FATHER OF CARNATIC MUSIC

Vol.DG453

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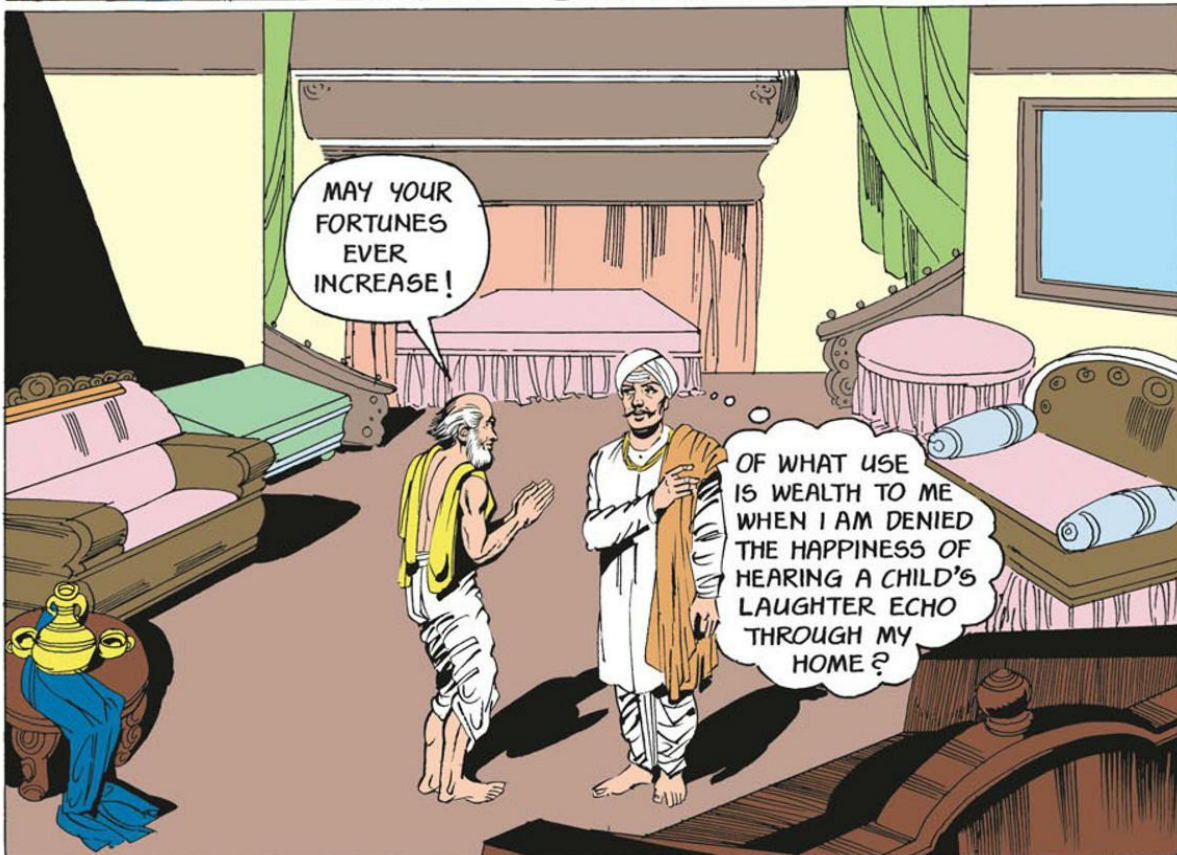
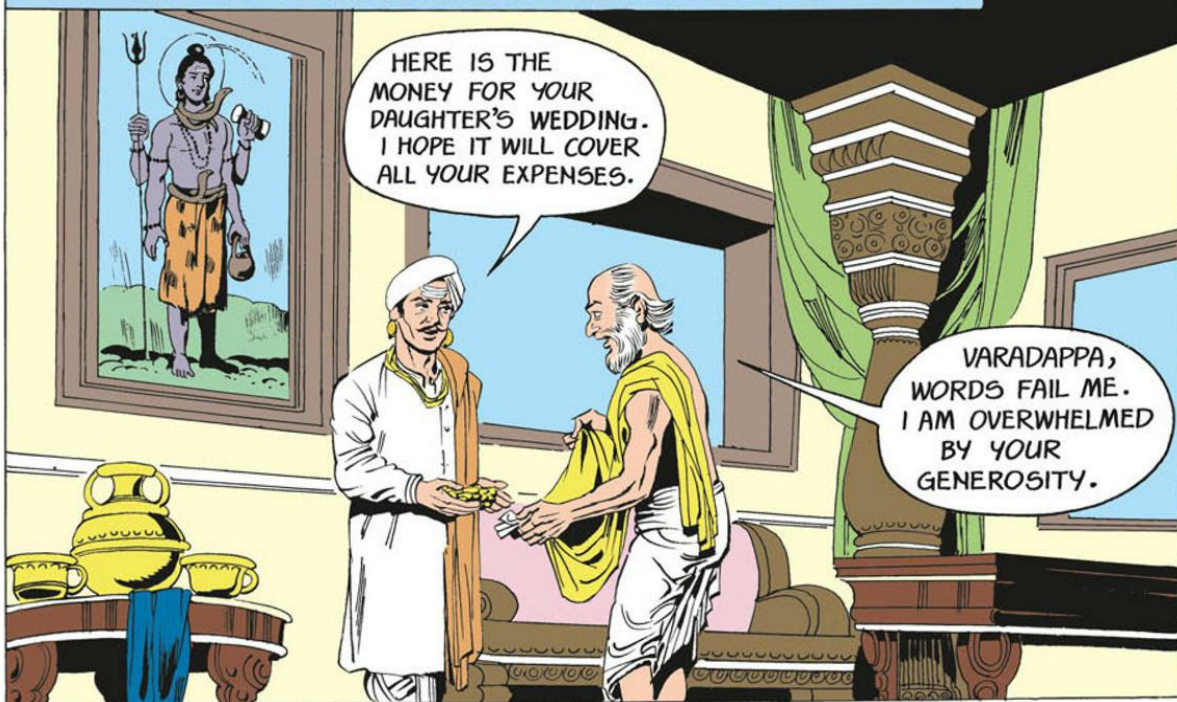
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PURANDARA DASA



VARADAPPA NAYAK WAS A RICH JEWELLER WHO LIVED IN PURANDARGAD, NEAR POONA, DURING THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

NO ONE WHO CAME TO HIM FOR HELP EVER WENT AWAY DISAPPOINTED.



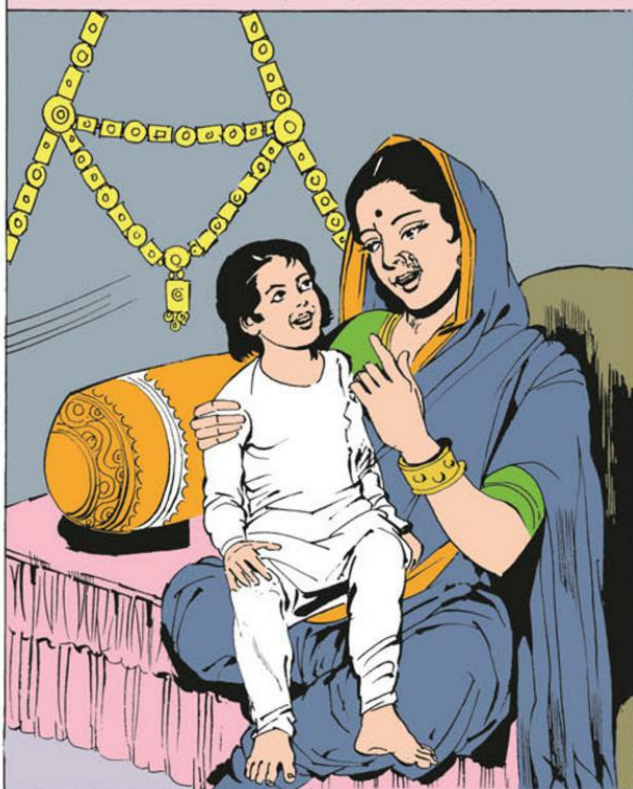
AT LAST, PIOUS VARADAPPA AND HIS WIFE VISITED THE TEMPLE OF VENKATESHWARA* AT TIRUPATI.



THEIR PRAYERS DID NOT GO UNHEARD. A YEAR LATER —



WHILE HIS MOTHER TRIED TO INCULCATE IN LITTLE SRINIVASA A LOVE OF GOD BY TELLING HIM STORIES FROM THE SCRIPTURES...



... WHAT SRINIVASA ENJOYED MOST WAS PLAYING WITH THE FAKE COINS HIS FATHER GAVE HIM.

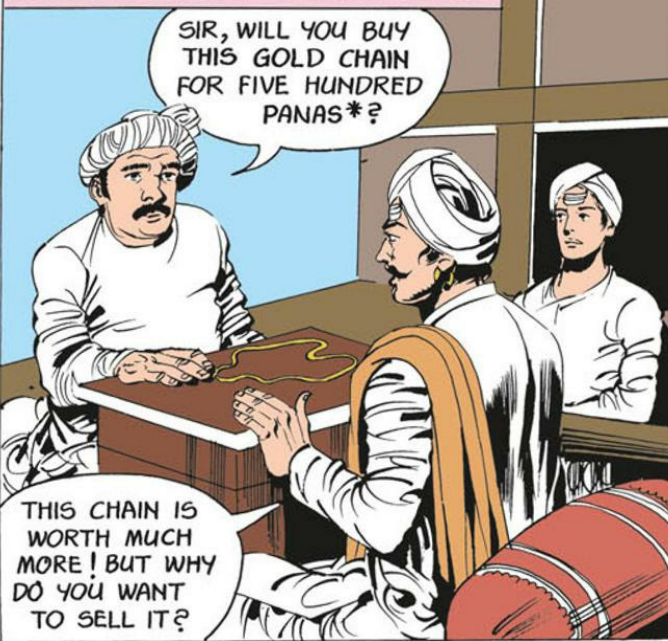


* ALSO KNOWN AS BALAJI
 ⊕ ANOTHER NAME OF VENKATESHWARA

WHEN HE GREW UP, SRINIVASA BEGAN TO ACCOMPANY HIS FATHER TO THE SHOP.

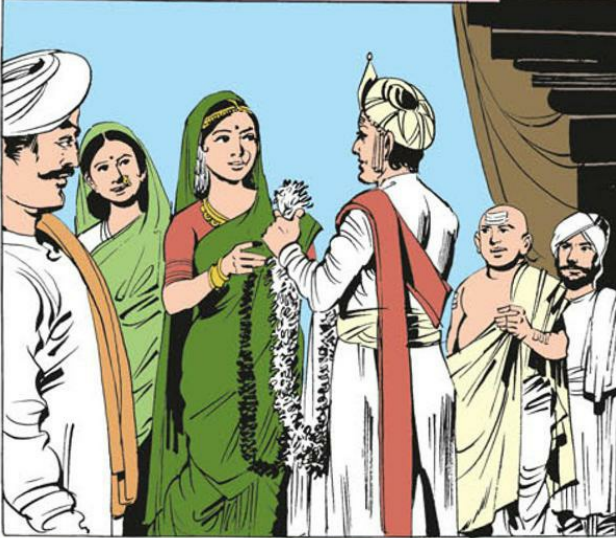


AT THE SHOP, HE OBSERVED HOW HIS FATHER DEALT WITH THE CUSTOMERS.



* PANA WAS A COPPER COIN. 20 PANAS = ONE VARAHA (GOLD COIN)

WHEN SRINIVASA CAME OF AGE, HE WAS MARRIED TO SARASWATI.



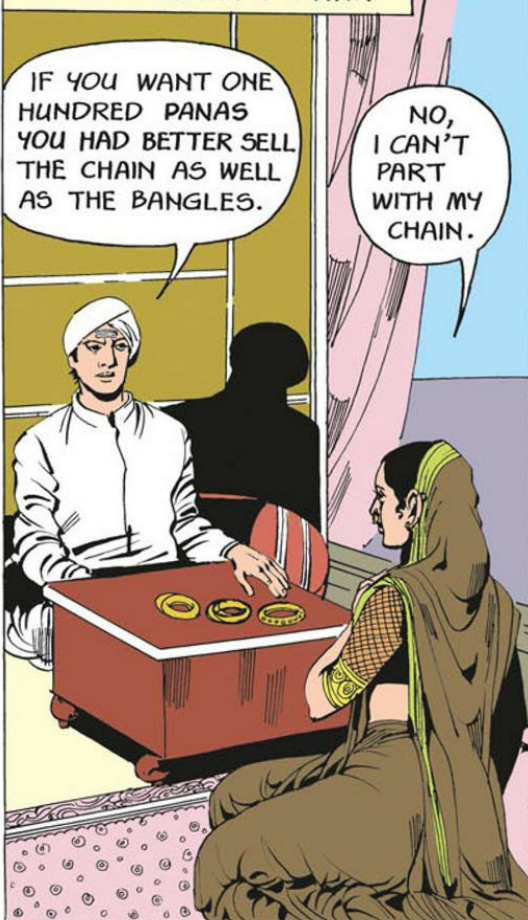
SOON AFTER THE WEDDING, VARADAPPA SENT FOR HIS SON.



YOU MUST NOW RELIEVE ME OF MY BUSINESS. I WISH TO DEVOTE MY TIME TO WORSHIP.

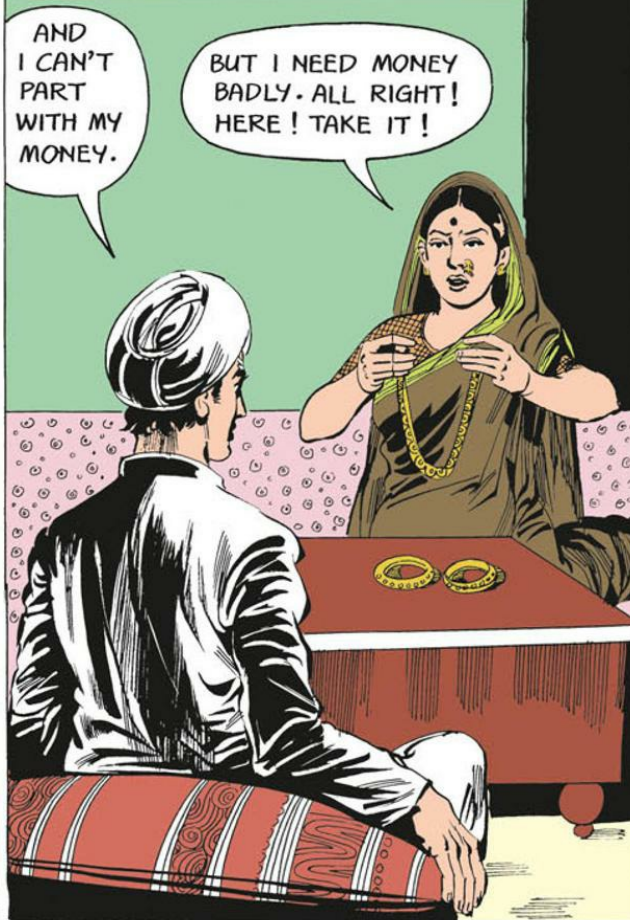
AS YOU PLEASE, FATHER.

SRINIVASA NAYAK'S WAY OF DOING BUSINESS WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE PIOUS VARADAPPA NAYAK.



IF YOU WANT ONE HUNDRED PANAS YOU HAD BETTER SELL THE CHAIN AS WELL AS THE BANGLES.

NO, I CAN'T PART WITH MY CHAIN.



AND I CAN'T PART WITH MY MONEY.

BUT I NEED MONEY BADLY. ALL RIGHT! HERE! TAKE IT!

APART FROM BEING MERCILESS WITH HIS CUSTOMERS, SRINIVASA WAS A MISER TOO.

SRINIVASA NAYAK,
WE ARE BUILDING A
TEMPLE FOR LORD
VENKATESHWARA.
WE HAVE COME
FOR A DONATION
FROM YOU.

WHY DON'T YOU
GO TO THE LORD
HIMSELF FOR IT?

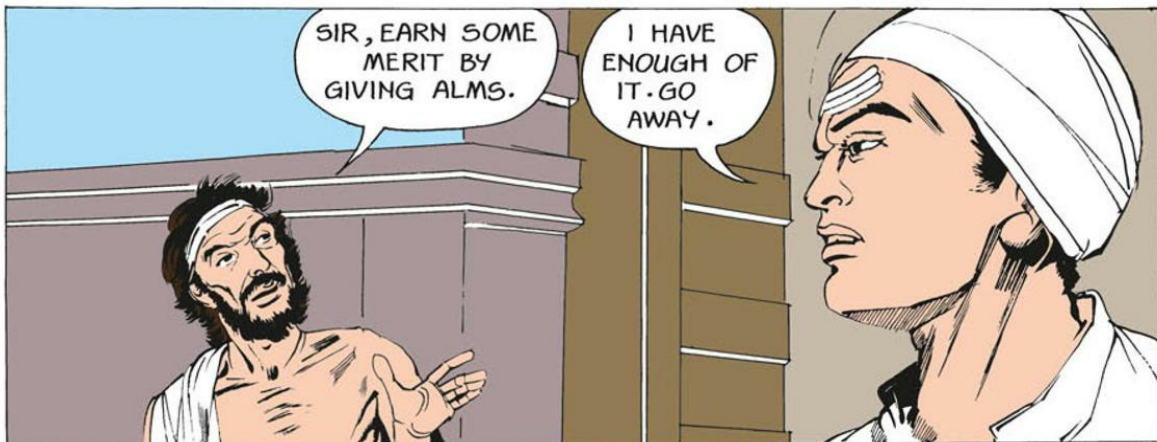
UNLIKE HER HUSBAND,
SARASWATI WAS VERY KIND
AND COMPASSIONATE.
ONE DAY —

MOTHER,
ALMS FOR
A BEGGAR.

PLEASE
WAIT. I WILL
GET YOU
SOME RICE.

AS SHE CAME OUT WITH THE RICE, SRINIVASA
NAYAK RETURNED FROM THE SHOP.

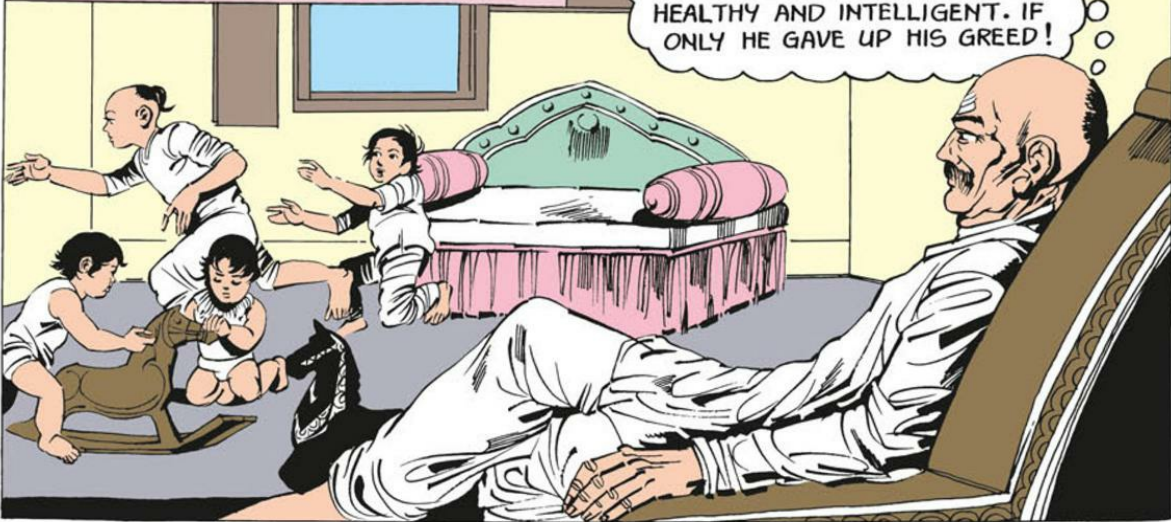
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
IF WE HAVE TOO MUCH
RICE IN THE HOUSE,
TELL ME. I'LL SEE THAT
WE BUY LESS.



* A PLANT DEIFIED BY ORTHODOX HINDUS.

AS THE YEARS PASSED, SRINIVASA NAYAK AND SARASWATI HAD FOUR SONS.

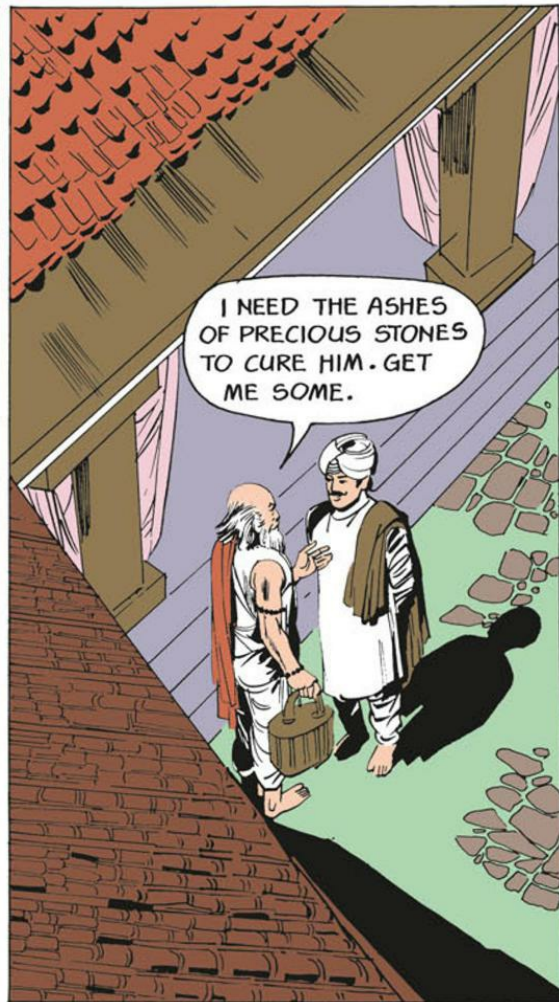
SRINIVASA IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SO MANY CHILDREN, ALL HEALTHY AND INTELLIGENT. IF ONLY HE GAVE UP HIS GREED!



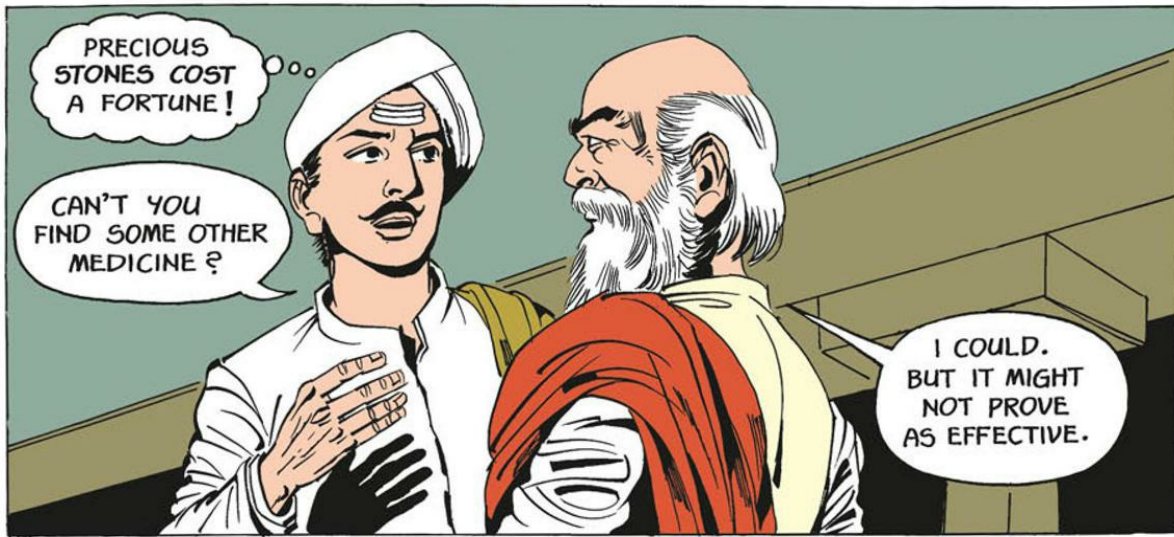
ONE DAY, OLD VARAD-APPA NAYAK FELL ILL. A VAIDYA * CAME TO EXAMINE HIM.



I NEED THE ASHES OF PRECIOUS STONES TO CURE HIM. GET ME SOME.



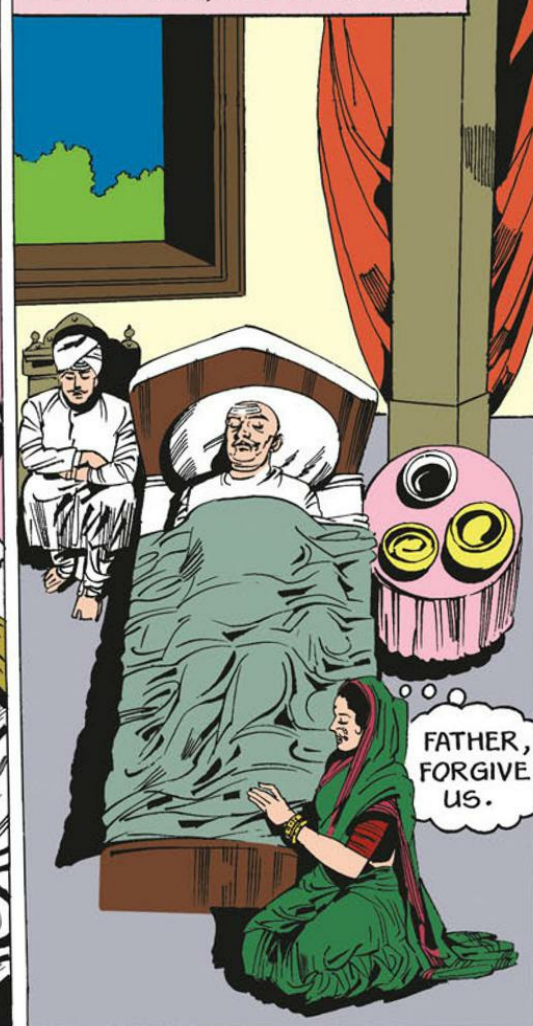
* DOCTOR



SARASWATI TRIED TO REASON WITH HIM.



THE NEXT DAY, VARADAPPA DIED.



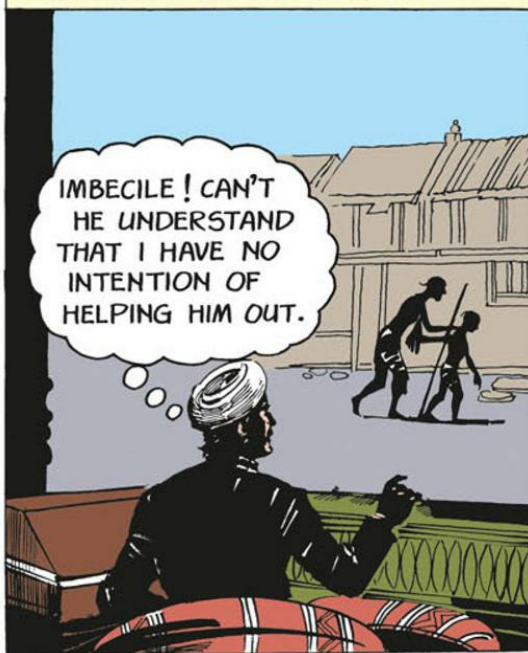
A FEW DAYS LATER, AN OLD BRAHMAN APPROACHED SRINIVASA NAYAK.

BLESSED ONE, I NEED MONEY TO PERFORM MY SON'S THREAD CEREMONY. WILL YOU HELP ME?



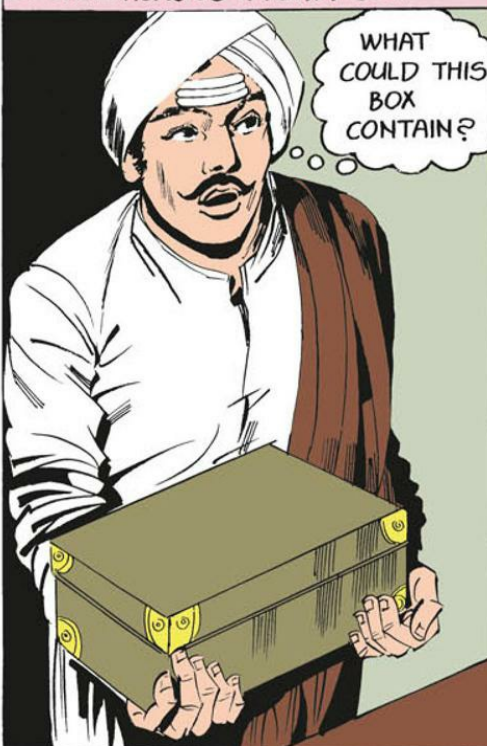
I AM BUSY. COME TOMORROW.

SRINIVASA NAYAK MADE HIM WALK TO HIS SHOP FOR SIX MONTHS WITHOUT GIVING HIM A SINGLE VARAHA.



IMBECILE! CAN'T HE UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HELPING HIM OUT.

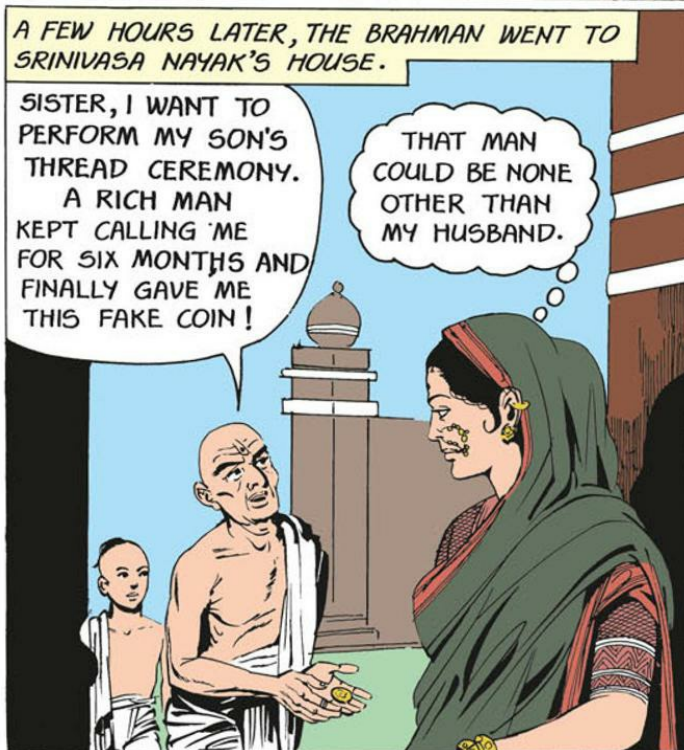
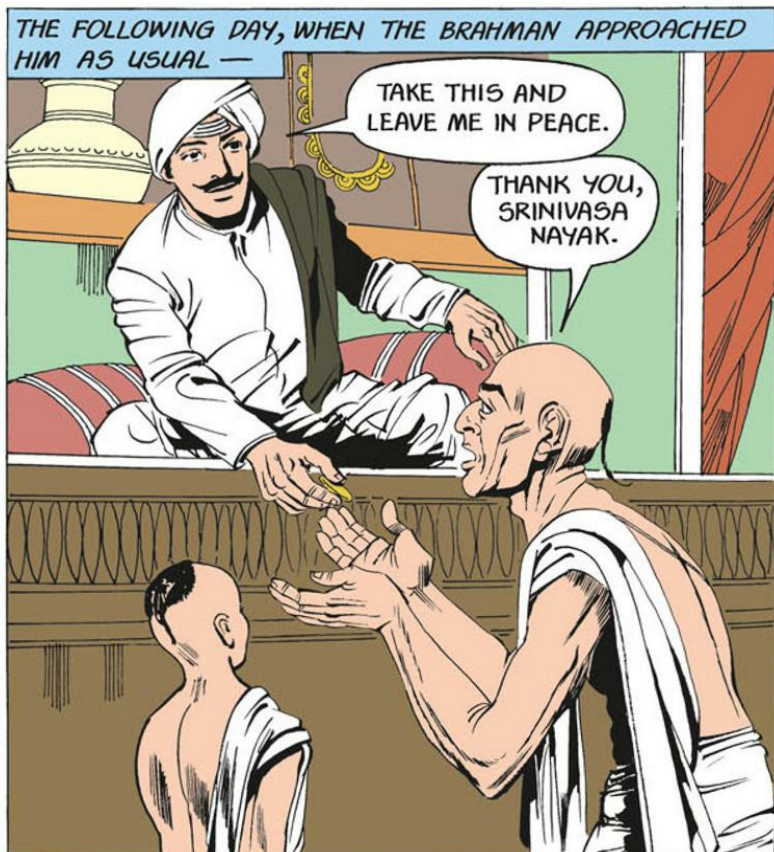
THE NEXT WEEK, AT THE TIME OF STOCK-TAKING IN HIS SHOP, SRINIVASA CAME ACROSS A HEAVY BOX.

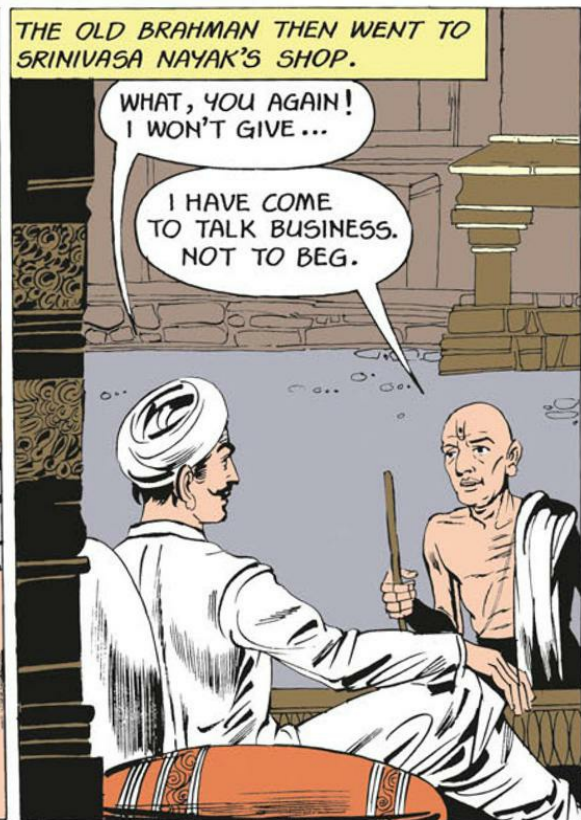


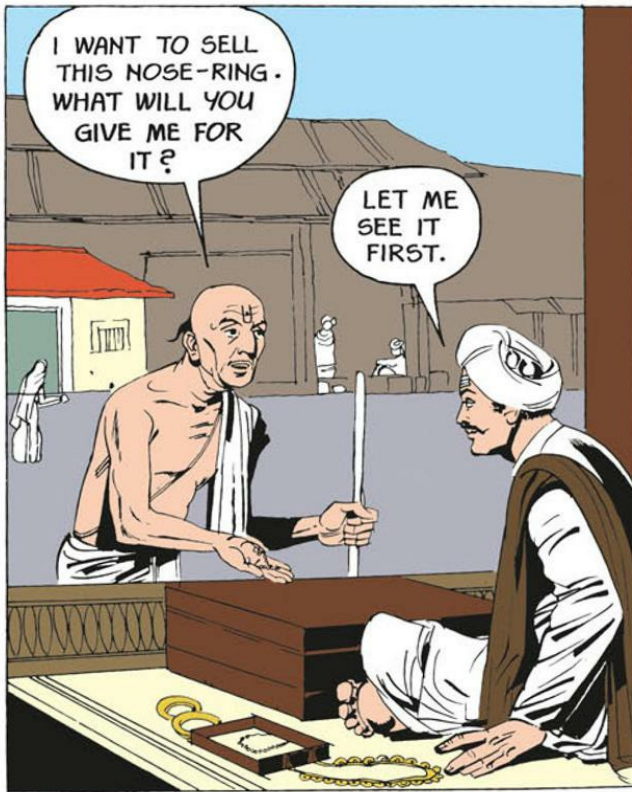
WHAT COULD THIS BOX CONTAIN?



FAKE COINS! THE COINS I USED TO PLAY WITH!



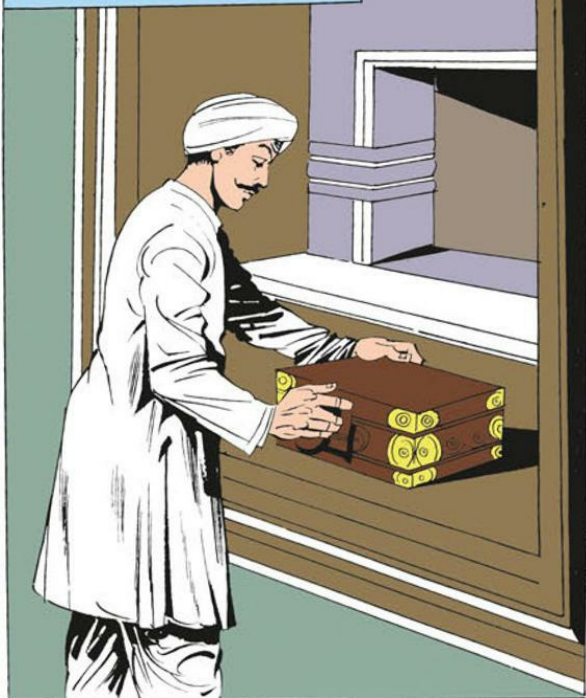




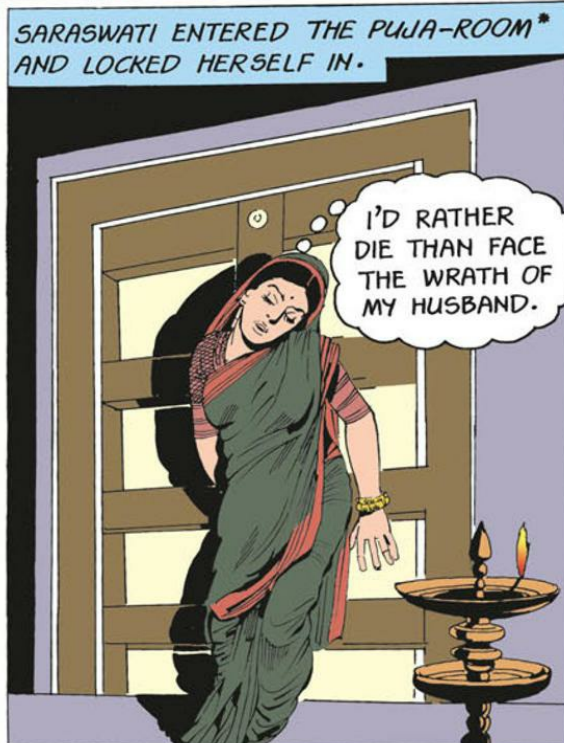
SRINIVASA NAYAK DECIDED TO PLAY FOR TIME TO PROBE INTO THE MATTER.



SRINIVASA NAYAK LOCKED THE NOSE-RING IN A BOX ...



...AND RUSHED HOME.



* THE ROOM WHERE THE HOUSEHOLD DEITIES ARE KEPT AND WORSHIPPED.

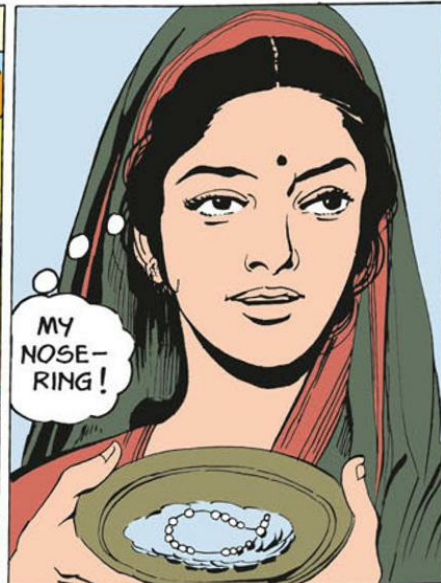
SHE DISLODGED THE DIAMONDS FROM
HER BANGLES...



... CRUSHED THEM AND MIXED THE
POWDER WITH WATER.



WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT TO SWALLOW THE MIXTURE—



SHE RUSHED TO HER HUSBAND.



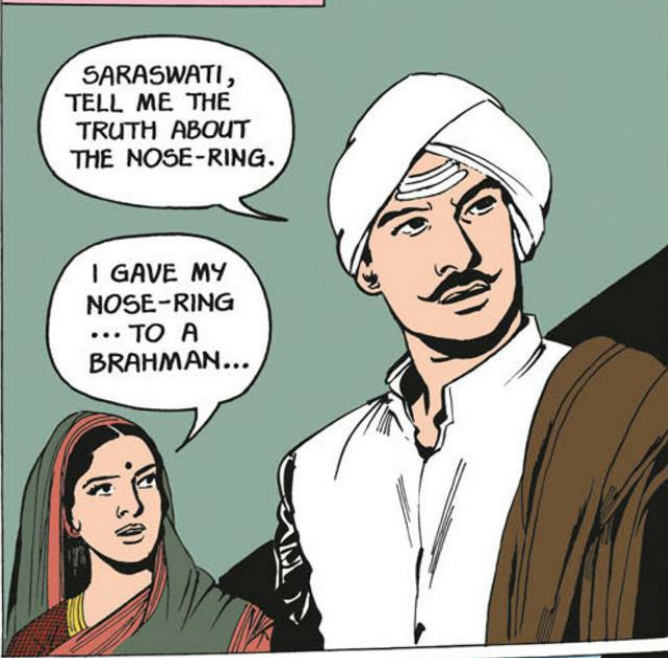
SRINIVASA NAYAK EXAMINED IT.

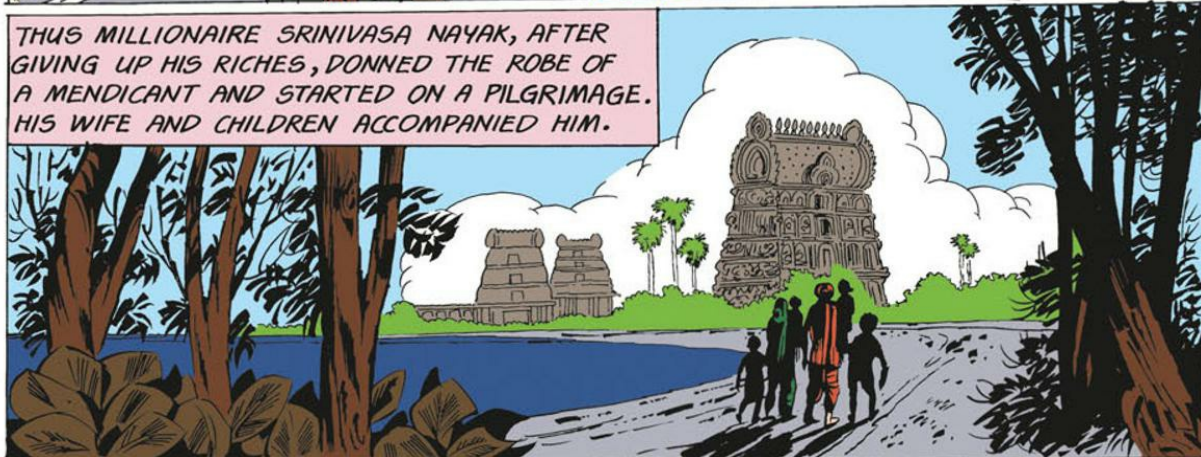
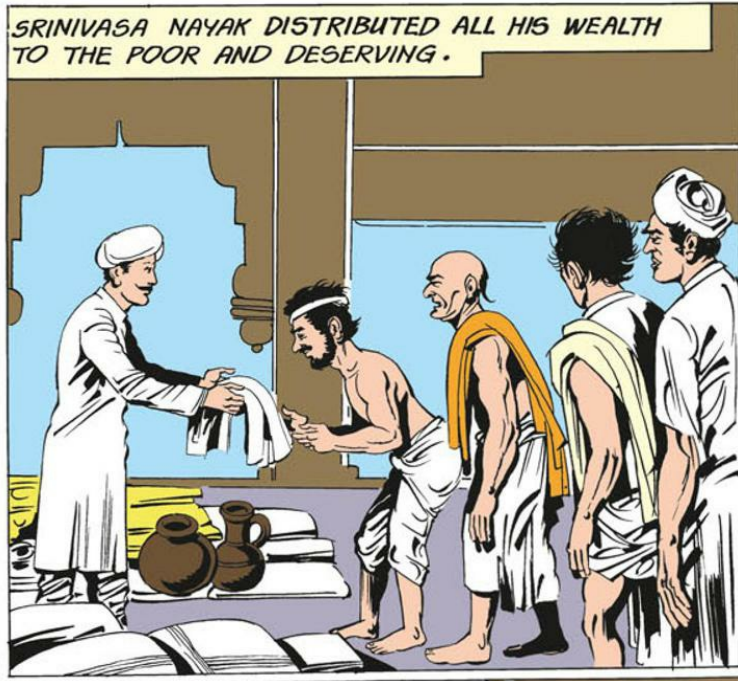
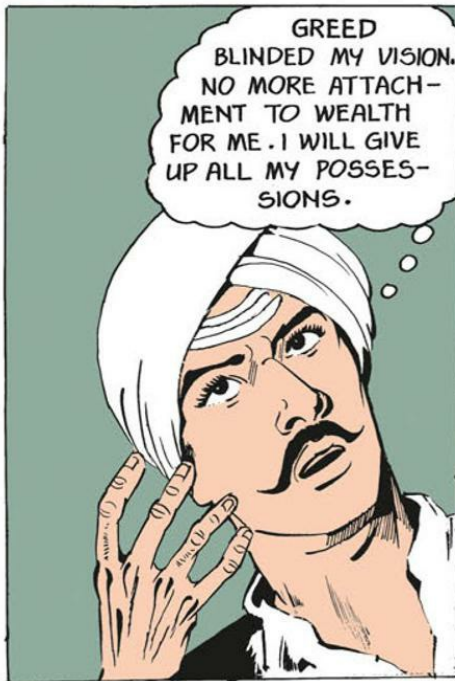


SRINIVASA NAYAK HURRIED BACK TO HIS SHOP AND UNLOCKED THE BOX.



HE RAN BACK HOME.

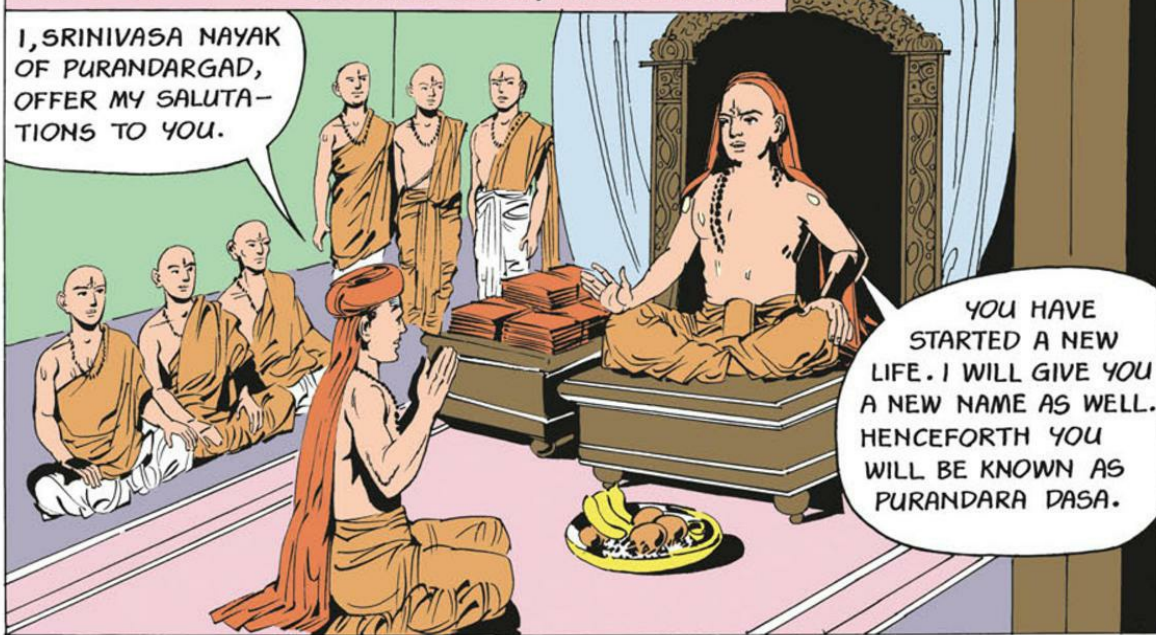




* VAISHNAVITES WHO SURRENDERED THEMSELVES TO GOD, CALLED THEMSELVES DASAS.

WANDERING FROM PLACE TO PLACE, SRINIVASA NAYAK CAME TO VIJAYANAGARA WHERE HE MET THE RENOWNED SAINT, VYASATEERTHA.

I, SRINIVASA NAYAK OF PURANDARGAD, OFFER MY SALUTATIONS TO YOU.



YOU HAVE STARTED A NEW LIFE. I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW NAME AS WELL. HENCEFORTH YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS PURANDARA DASA.

PURANDARA DASA USED TO GO OUT ON THE STREETS OF VIJAYANAGARA SINGING SONGS IN PRAISE OF GOD. PEOPLE USED TO FALL AT HIS FEET AND MAKE OFFERINGS TO HIM.



HOW MELODIOUS!

HOW PREGNANT WITH MEANING ARE HIS SONGS!

ONE DAY, HE SAW A MUSIC TEACHER SCOLDING HIS PUPIL.



... AND YET THIS STUPID GIRL HAS NOT PICKED UP THE RAGA*.

LET ME HELP YOU. CHILD, SING AFTER ME.



LAMBODARA, LAKUMIKARA...

LAMBODARA, LAKUMIKARA...



THE CHILD SANG AFTER PURANDARA DASA WITH EFFORTLESS EASE.

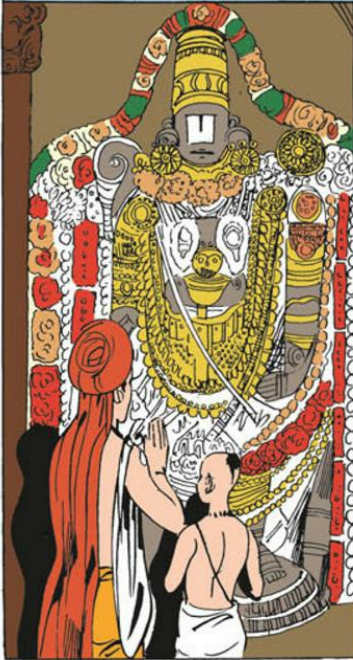
LATER —

REVERED DASA, YOU HAVE MADE MUSIC SIMPLE AND SWEET. HEREAFTER, YOURS WILL BE THE FIRST SONG THAT I WILL TEACH A BEGINNER.**

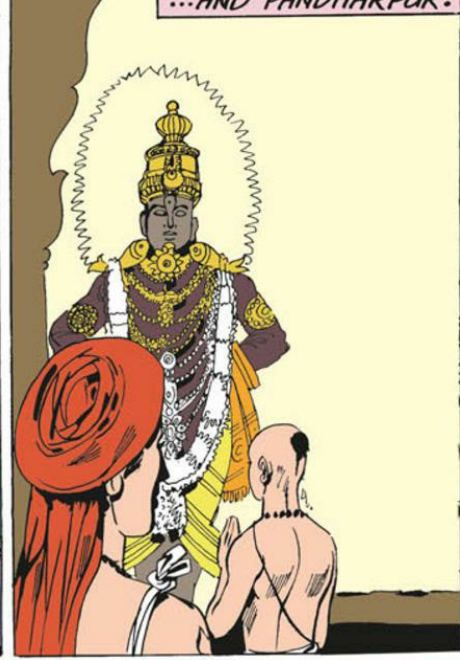


* MUSICAL MODE ** THIS PRACTICE IS MAINTAINED TO THIS DAY.

EVER ON THE MOVE, PURANDARA DASA, FOLLOWED BY HIS FAITHFUL DISCIPLE APPANNA, VISITED TIRUPATI ...

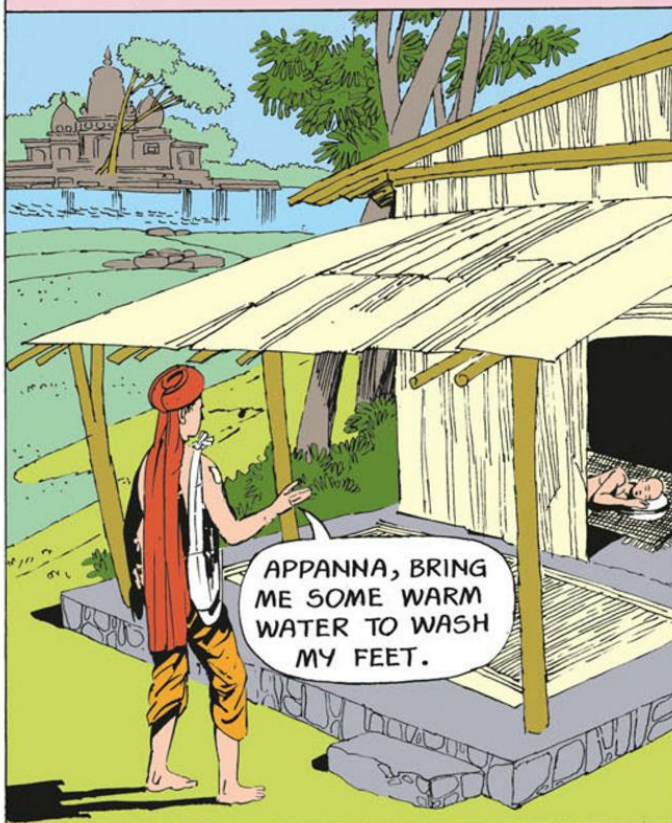


...UDUPI...



...AND PANDHARPUR.

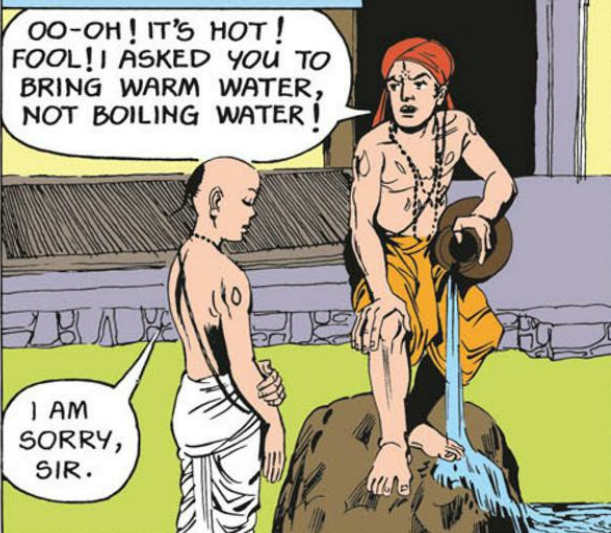
ONE DAY, WHILE THEY WERE AT PANDHARPUR —



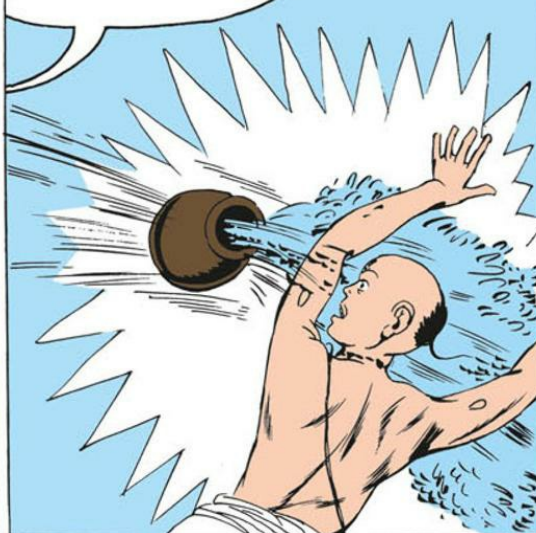
A FEW MINUTES LATER —



TAKING THE PITCHER FROM HIM,
PURANDARA DASA POURED THE
WATER ON HIS FEET —



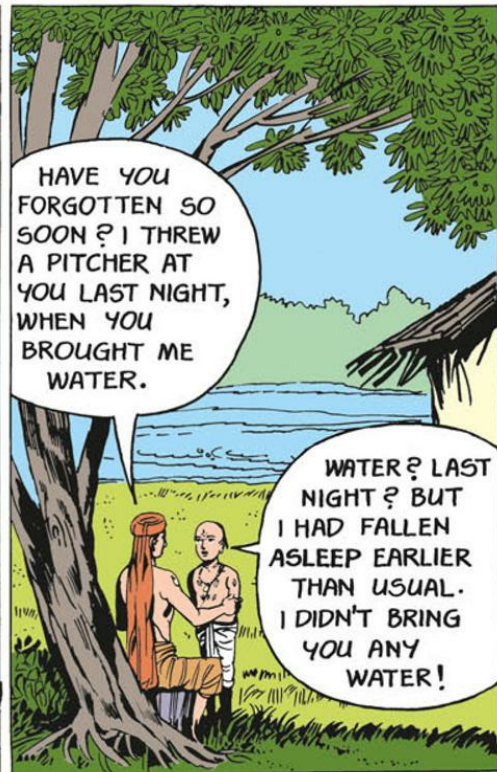
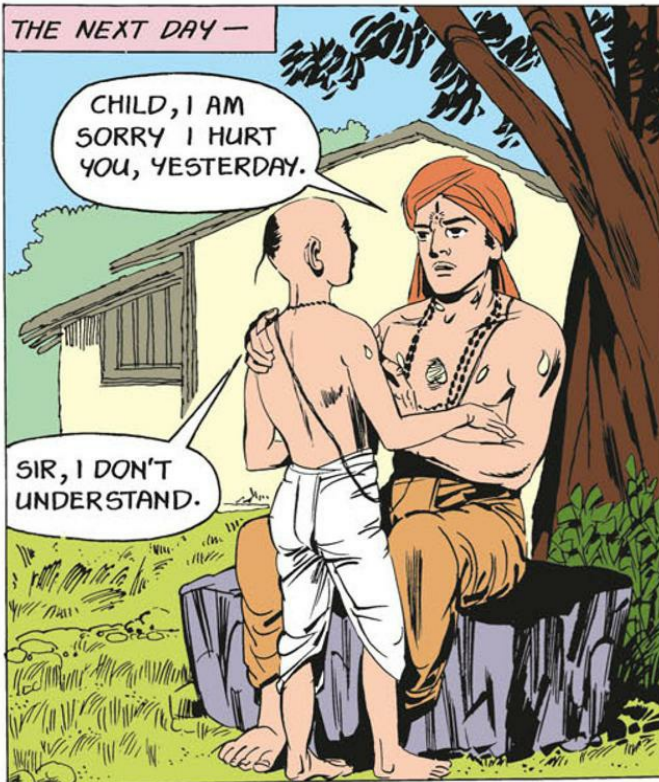
THIS WILL TEACH
YOU TO BE CAREFUL
NEXT TIME.



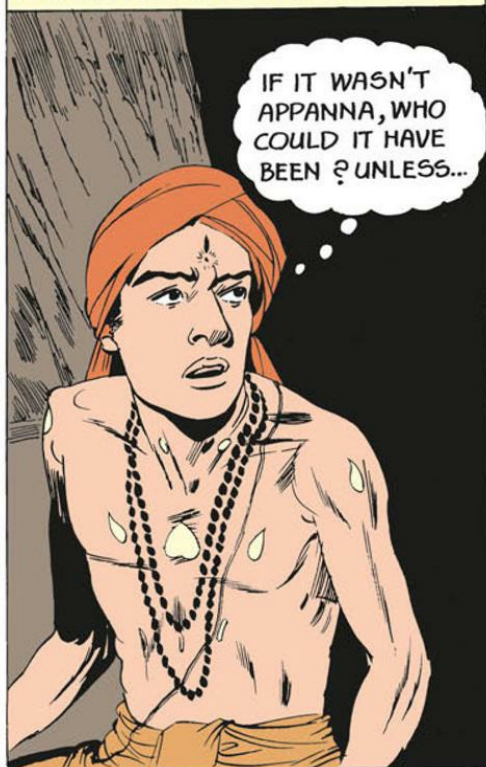
THAT NIGHT, HOWEVER, PURANDARA DASA COULDN'T
SLEEP. HE WAS FULL OF REMORSE FOR WHAT HE HAD
DONE.



THE NEXT DAY —



PURANDARA DASA WAS PERPLEXED.

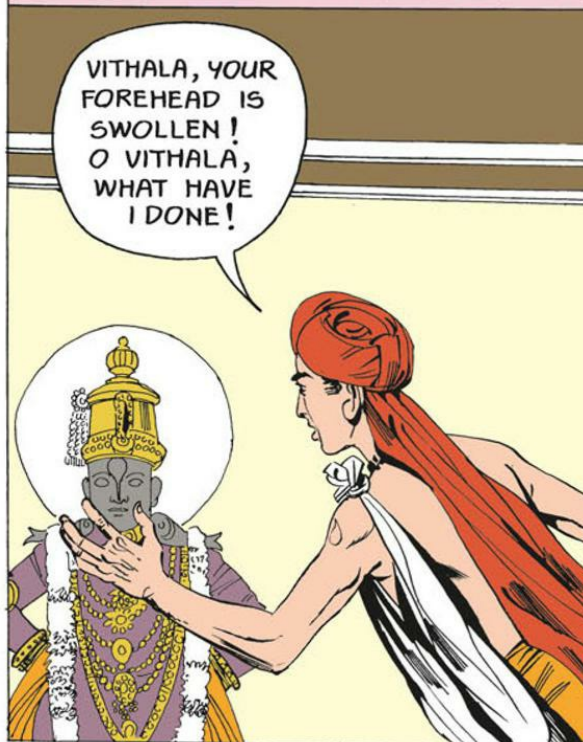


HE WENT TO THE TEMPLE OF VITHALA*.



* ANOTHER NAME FOR PANDURANG.

SUDDENLY, PURANDARA DASA RUSHED TOWARDS THE IDOL OF VITHALA.



YOU HAVE NOT DONE ANYTHING, DASA. CONTROL YOURSELF. NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO THE LORD.



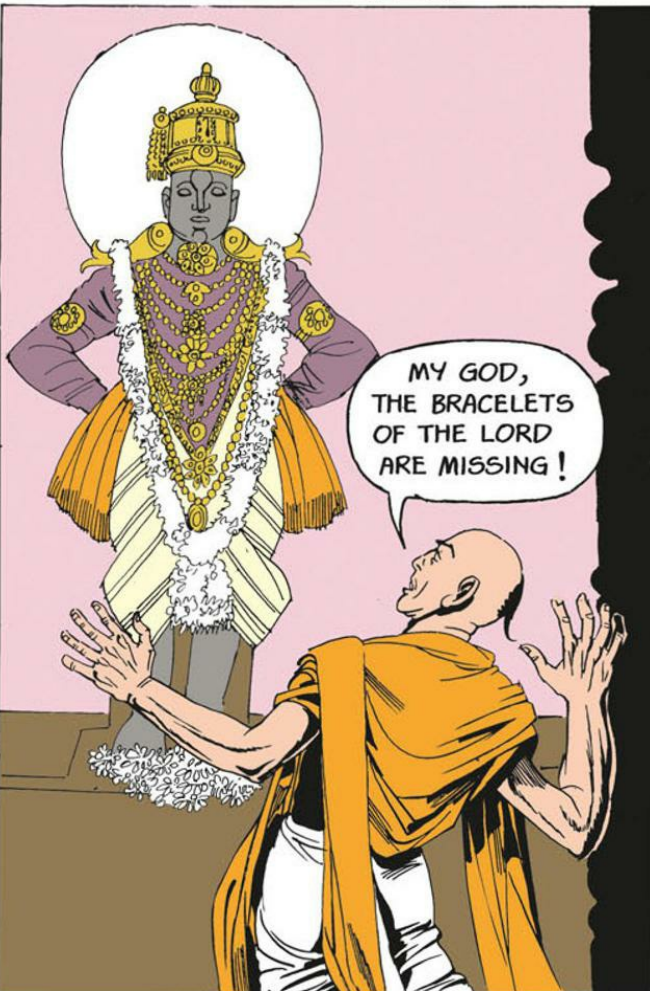
PURANDARA DASA BURST INTO TEARS.



THE WHOLE OF THAT DAY, HE DID NOT EAT A THING. WHEN THE PRIEST LEFT FOR HOME, PURANDARA DASA WAS STILL AT THE TEMPLE.

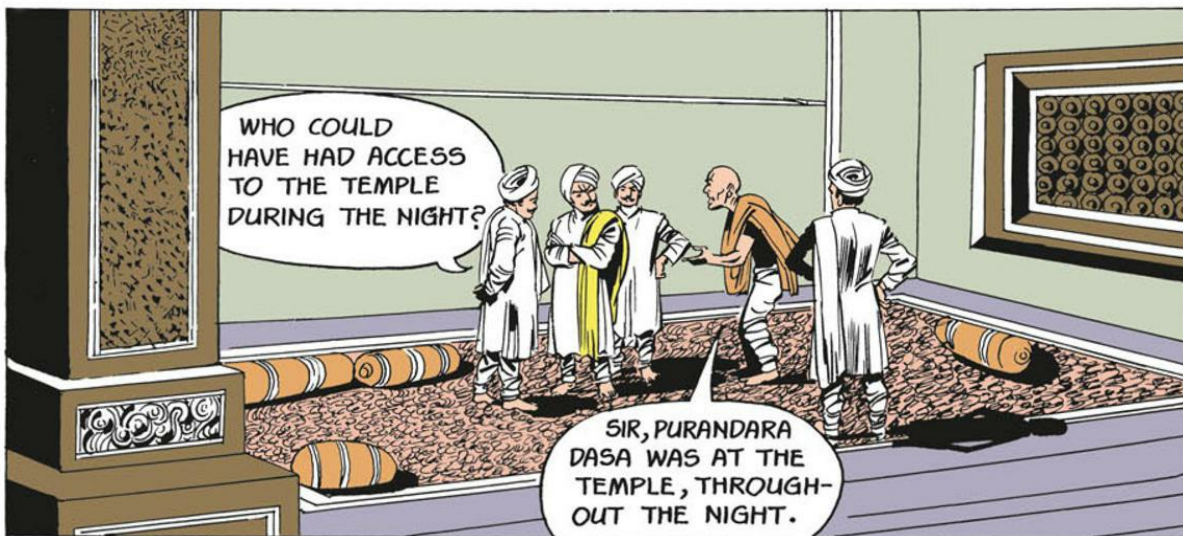


THE NEXT MORNING WHEN THE PRIEST CAME TO OPEN THE DOORS OF THE TEMPLE, HE FOUND PURANDARA DASA STILL THERE.



THE PRIEST RAN TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE TEMPLE.

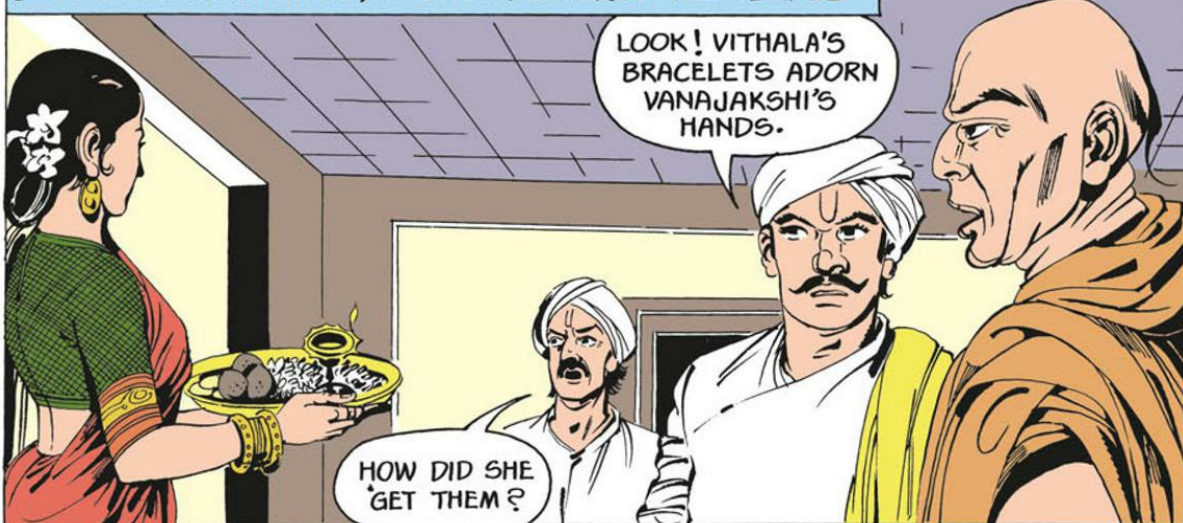


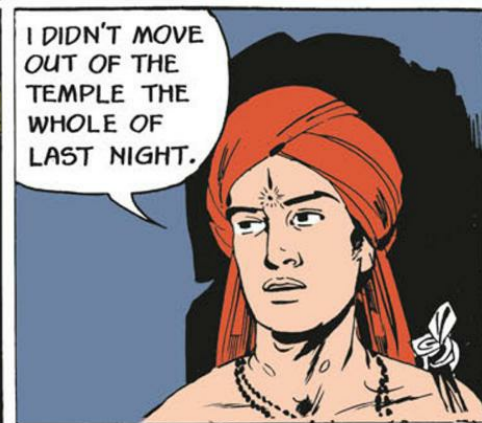
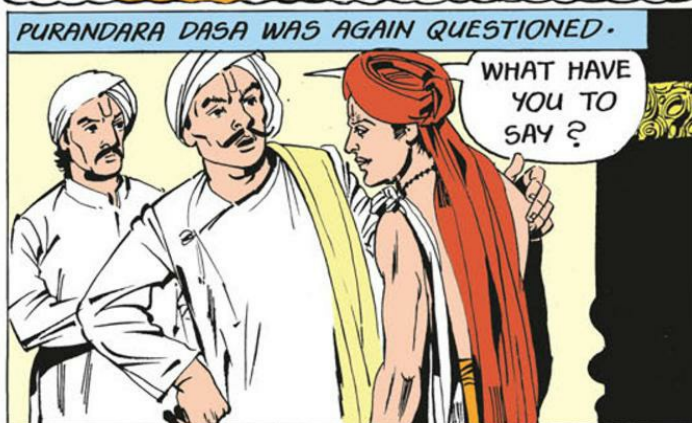
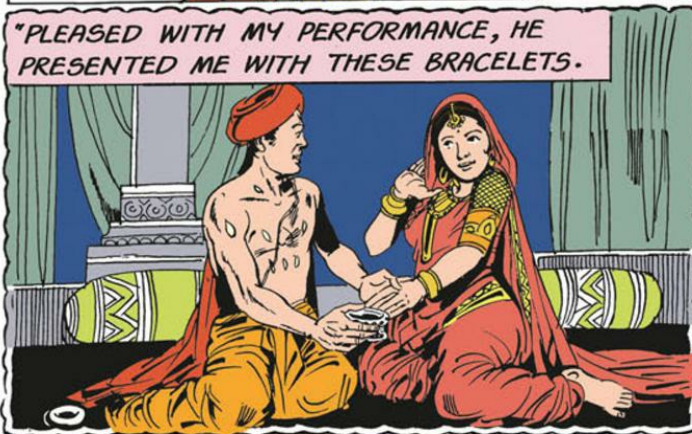
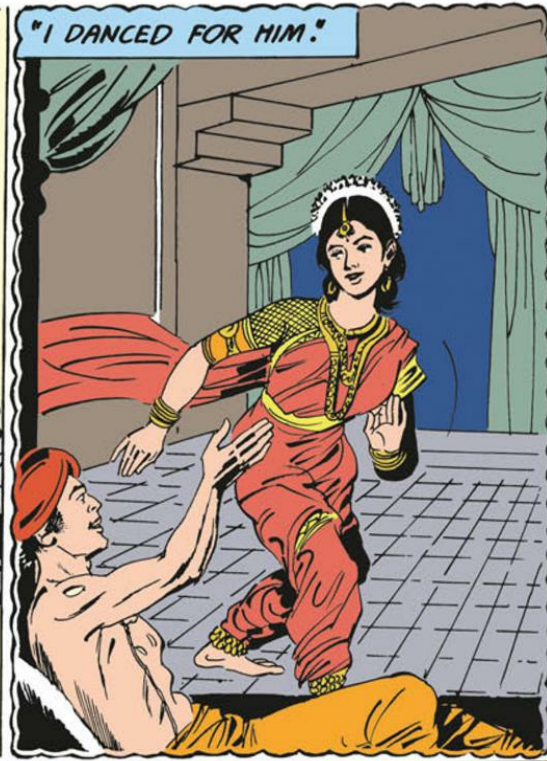


WHEN PURANDARA DASA WAS QUESTIONED—

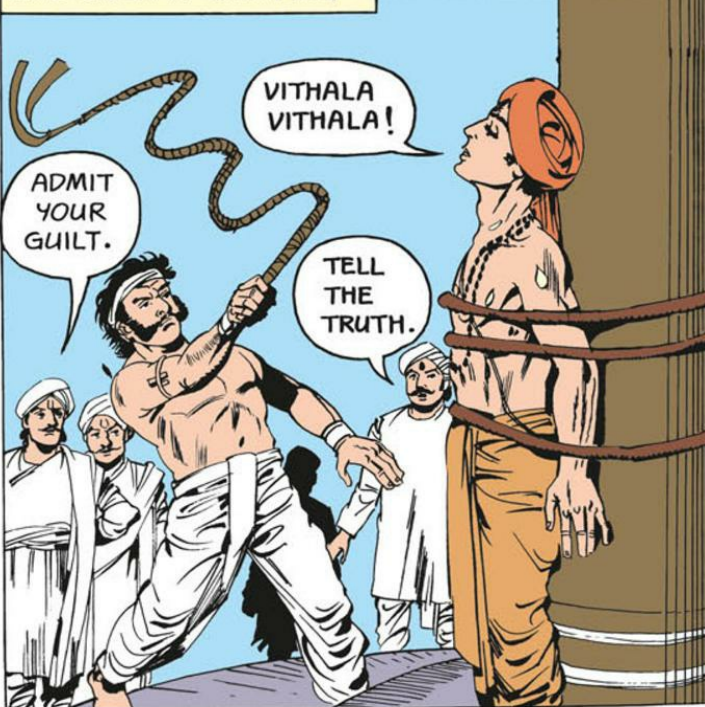


JUST THEN VANAJAKSHI, A DANGER ENTERED THE TEMPLE.





PURANDARA DASA WAS TIED TO A PILLAR AND WAS GIVEN A WHIPPING.

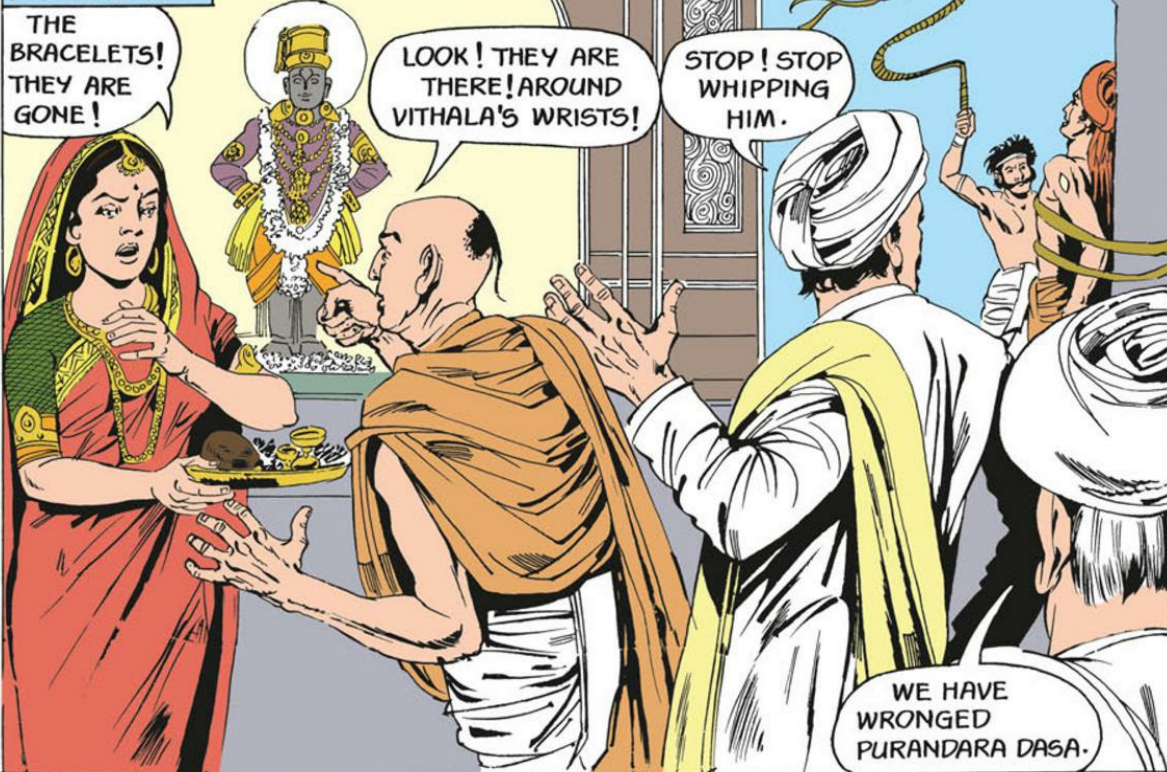


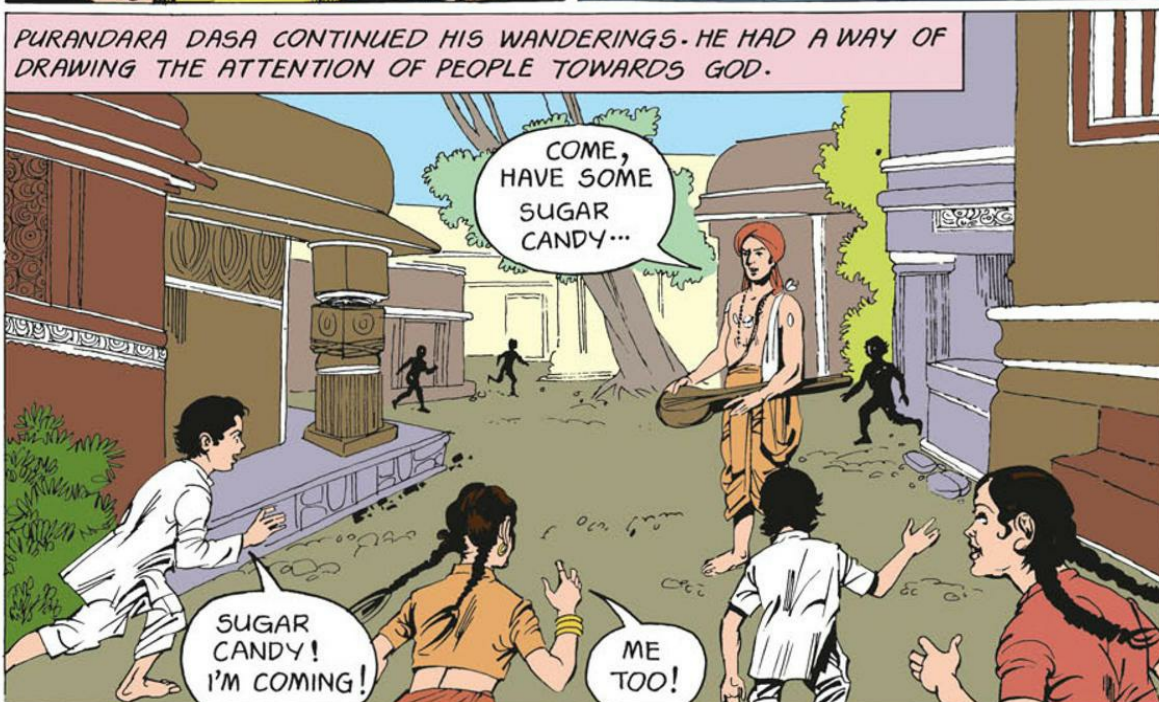
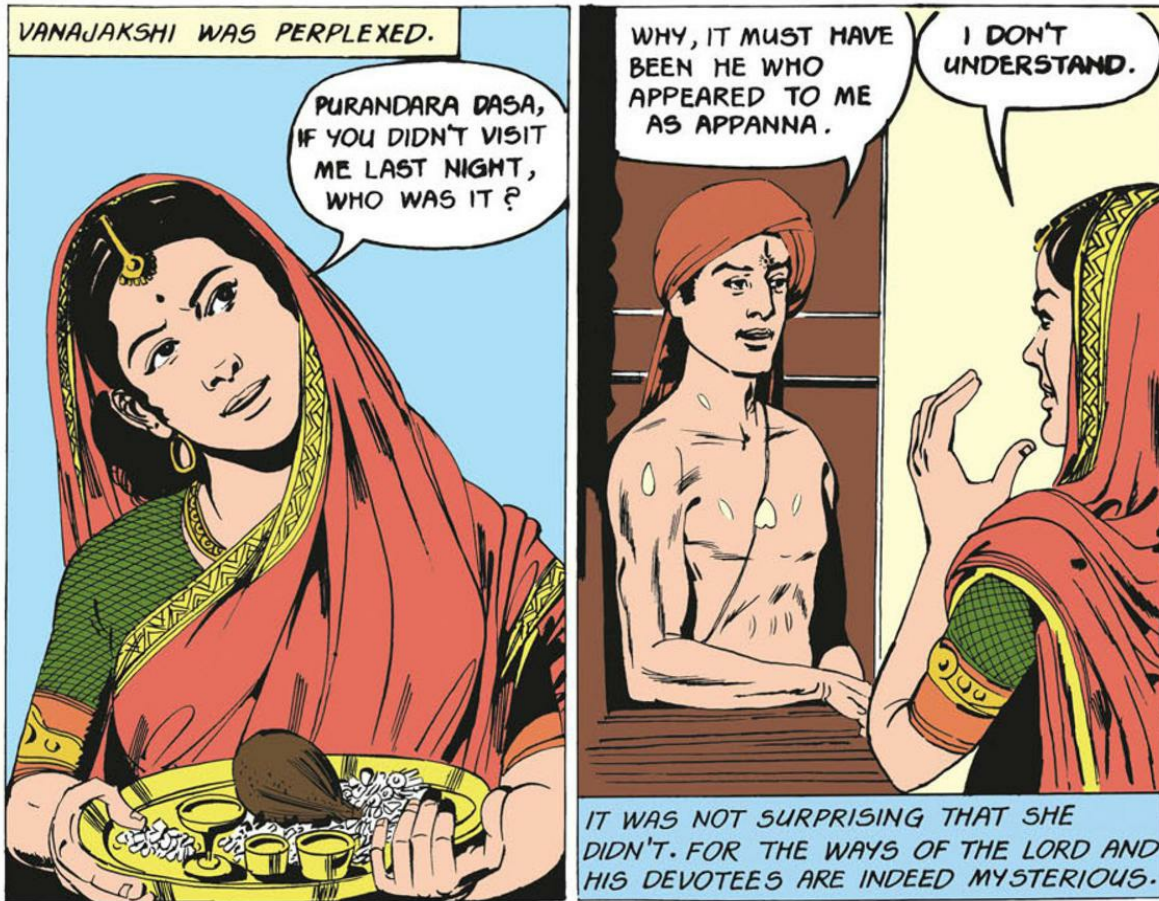
THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. I SHOULD BE BEATEN MORE SEVERELY FOR THE WRONG I HAVE DONE YOU, VITHALA.



SUDDENLY —

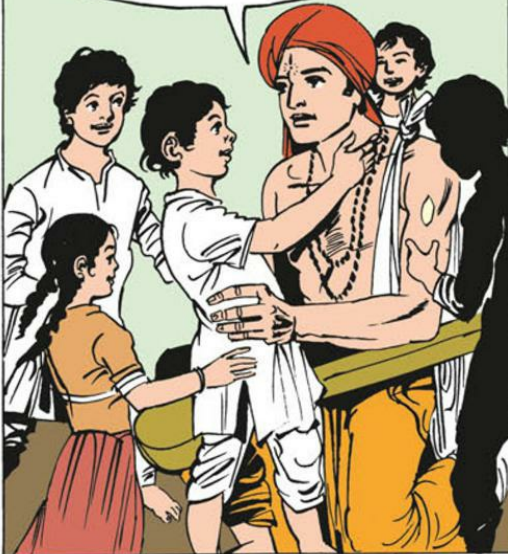
THE BRACELETS! THEY ARE GONE!





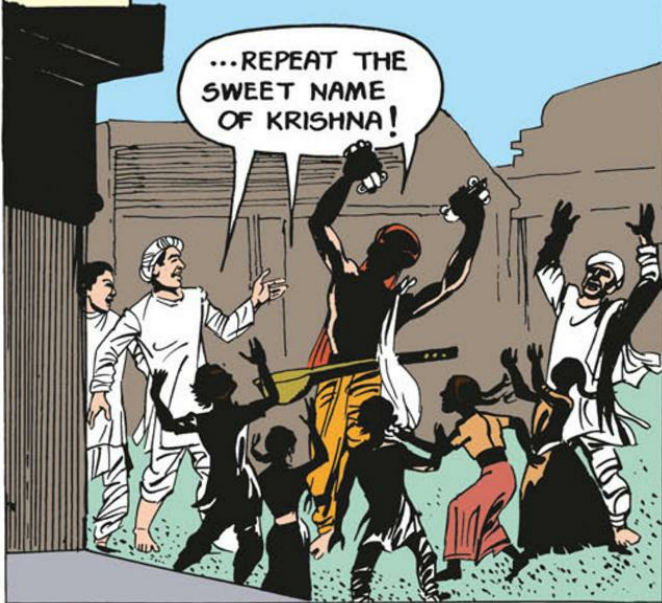
WHEN A CROWD WAS DRAWN BY THE MAGIC WORDS "SUGAR CANDY"—

...REPEAT THE SWEET NAME OF KRISHNA! IS THERE ANYTHING SWEETER THAN THAT?



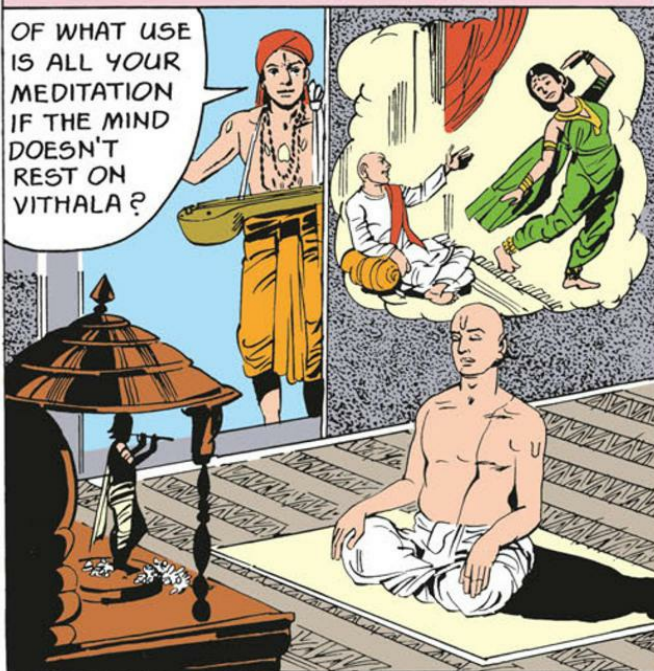
HE WOULD COMPLETE THE SONG, AND THE CROWD WOULD DANCE WITH HIM TO ITS TUNE.

...REPEAT THE SWEET NAME OF KRISHNA!



HE NOT ONLY SANG SONGS PRAISING GOD, BUT ALSO CONDEMNING HYPOCRISY.

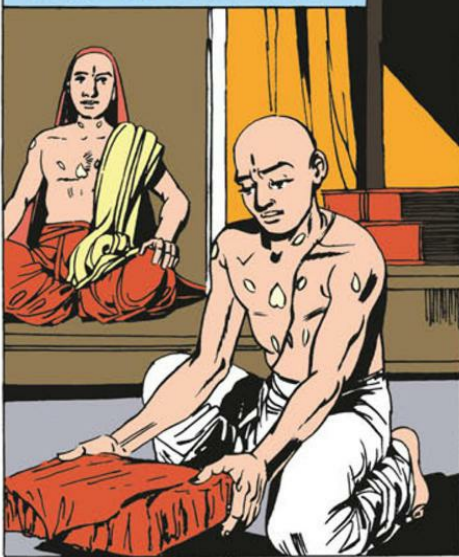
OF WHAT USE IS ALL YOUR MEDITATION IF THE MIND DOESN'T REST ON VITHALA?



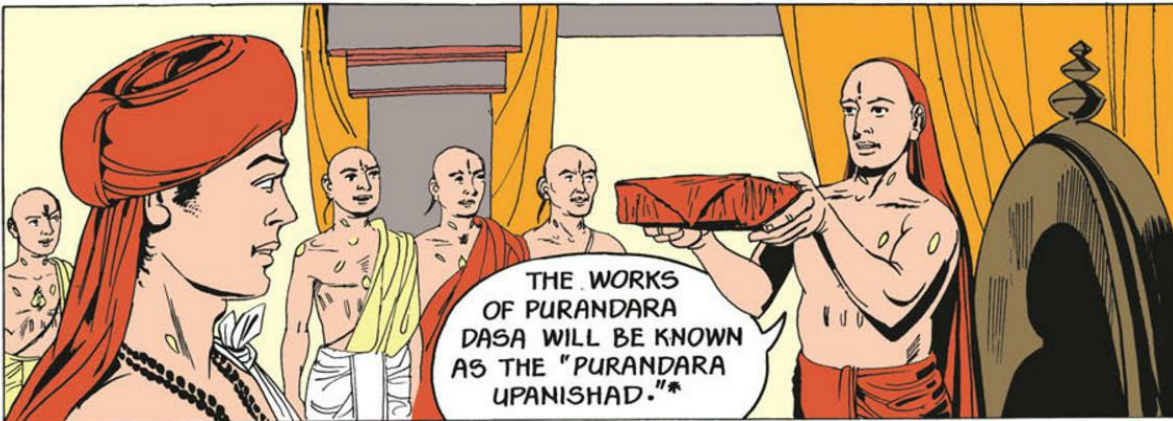
MASTER, YOU HAVE OPENED MY EYES!



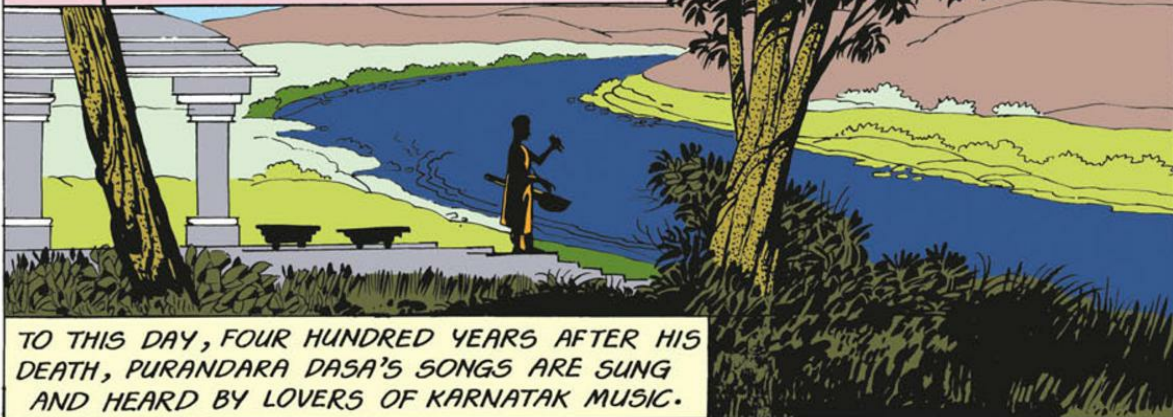
BUT NO SOONER HAD THE DISCIPLE KEPT THE WORKS ON THE FLOOR...



... THAN THEY SPRANG UP AND PLACED THEMSELVES ON THE VYASA PEETH.



PURANDARA DASA SPENT HIS LAST DAYS IN A RETREAT, SPECIALLY BUILT FOR HIM BY THE KING, ON A BANK OF THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA IN VIJAYANAGARA.



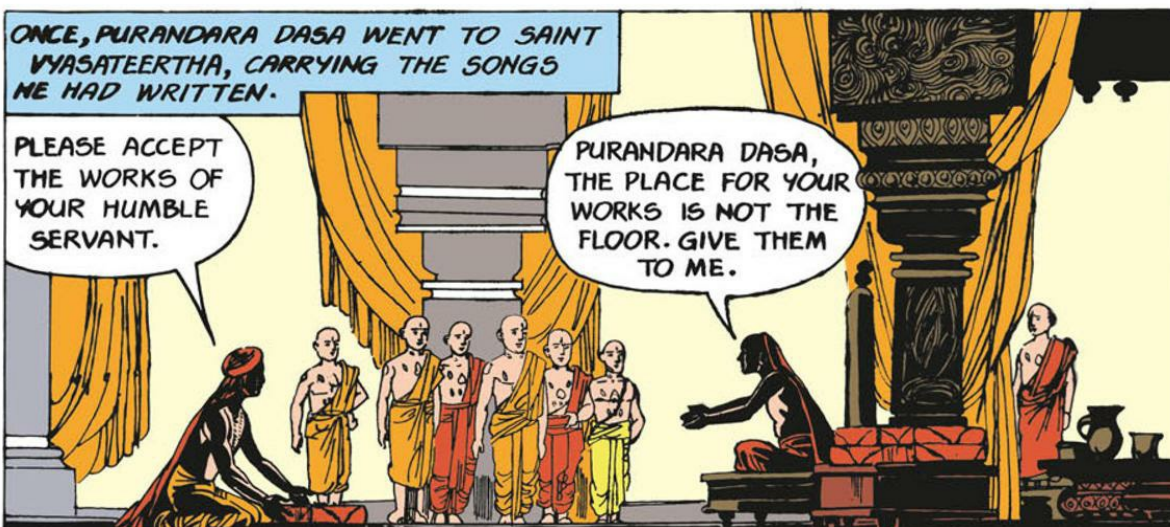
TO THIS DAY, FOUR HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, PURANDARA DASA'S SONGS ARE SUNG AND HEARD BY LOVERS OF KARNATAK MUSIC.

* UPANISHADS ARE THE SACRED SCRIPTURES OF THE HINDUS WHICH DEAL WITH THE NATURE OF BRAHMAN.

ONCE, PURANDARA DASA WENT TO SAINT VYASATEERTHA, CARRYING THE SONGS HE HAD WRITTEN.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE WORKS OF YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.

PURANDARA DASA, THE PLACE FOR YOUR WORKS IS NOT THE FLOOR. GIVE THEM TO ME.

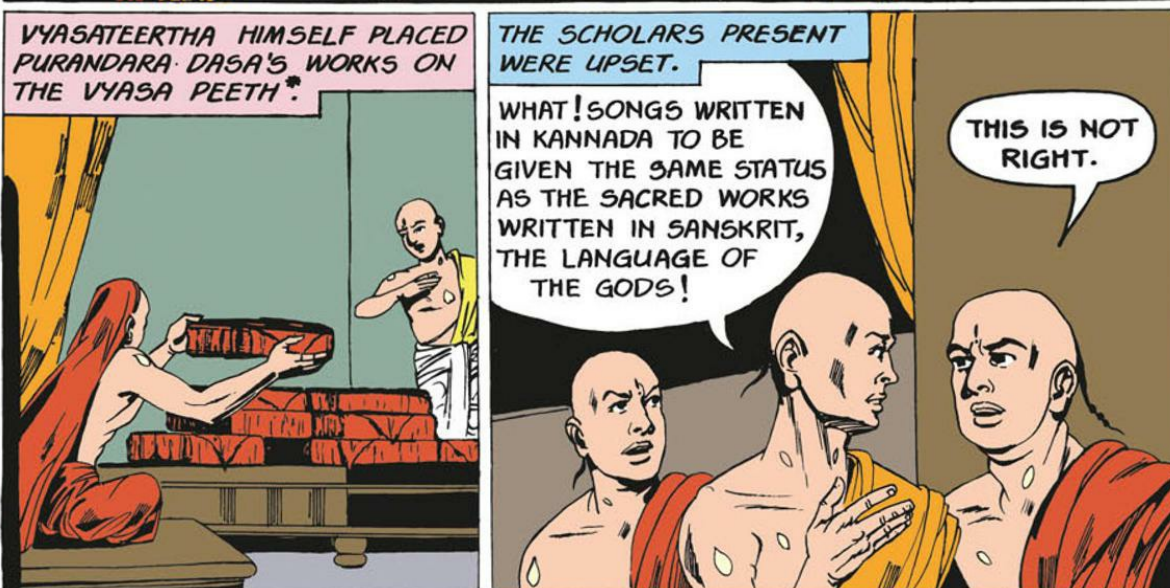


VYASATEERTHA HIMSELF PLACED PURANDARA DASA'S WORKS ON THE VYASA PEETH*.

THE SCHOLARS PRESENT WERE UPSET.

WHAT! SONGS WRITTEN IN KANNADA TO BE GIVEN THE SAME STATUS AS THE SACRED WORKS WRITTEN IN SANSKRIT, THE LANGUAGE OF THE GODS!

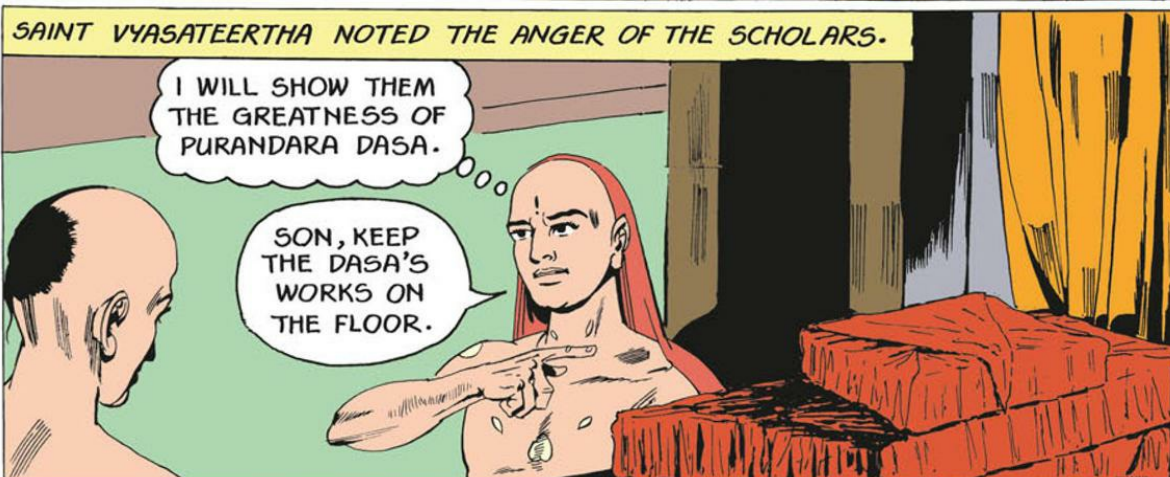
THIS IS NOT RIGHT.



SAINT VYASATEERTHA NOTED THE ANGER OF THE SCHOLARS.

I WILL SHOW THEM THE GREATNESS OF PURANDARA DASA.

SON, KEEP THE DASA'S WORKS ON THE FLOOR.



* RAISED PLATFORM ON WHICH THE TEACHER OF THE SCRIPTURES SITS OR THE SCRIPTURES ARE PLACED.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrabhasa Dasharatha Dhruva And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories Of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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Ramakrishna Srinivasa Ramanujan Subramania Bharati</p>	<p>Swami Chinmayananda Swami Pranavananda Tales Of Sai Baba Tansen Tulsidas Vidyasagar Vivekananda Zarathushtra</p> <p>INDIAN CLASSICS <i>Enchanting tales from Indian literature</i></p> <p>Ananda Math Ancestors Of Rama Devi Choudhurani Durgesh Nandini Kadambari Kannagi Kapala Kundala Kumanan Maarthaanda Varma Malavika Manonmani Prince Jivaka Raj Singh Ratnavali Shakuntala The Adventures Of Pratapana The Elusive Kaka Udayana Urvashi Vasantasena Vasavadatta Veer Dhaval</p> <p>FABLES AND HUMOUR <i>Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour</i></p> <p>A Bag Of Gold Coins Amrapali Andher Nagari Angulimala Bikal The Terrible BIRBAL STORIES Birbal The Clever Birbal The Genius Birbal The Just Birbal The Wise Birbal The Witty Birbal To The Rescue The Inimitable Birbal Chandralalal Dhola And Maru Friends And Foes Gopal And The Cowherd Gopal The Jester HITOPADESHA TALES Choice Of Friends How Friends Are Parted Hothal JATAKA TALES Battle Of Wits Bird Stories Deer Stories Elephant Stories Jackal Stories Monkey Stories Nandi Vishala Stories Of Courage Stories Of Wisdom Tales Of Misers The Deadly Feast The Giant And The Dwarf The Hidden Treasure The Magic Chant</p>	<p>The Mouse Merchant True Friends Kanwal And Kehar Kesari The Flying Thief King Kusha Manduka</p> <p>PANCHATANTRA TALES Crows And Owls How The Jackal Ate The Elephant The Brahmin And The Goat The Dullard The Greedy Mother-in-law The Jackal And The Wardrum Raman Of Tenali Raman The Matchless Wit Sahasramalla Sakshi Gopal Satwant Kaur Sharan Kaur Shrenik Sukhu And Dukhu Sundari Tales Of Maryada Rama The Acrobat The Adventures Of Agad Datta The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu The Bridegroom's Ring The Celestial Necklace The Clever Dancer The Cowherd Of Alawi The Fearless Boy The Fool's Disciples The Golden Sand The Green Demon The Unhappy Tiger The Learned Pandit The Lost Prince The Magic Grove The Miraculous Conch The Mystery Of The Missing Gift The Pandit And The Milkmaid The Pig And The Dog The Pious Cat The Priceless Gem The Prince And The Magician The Prophecy The Queen's Necklace The Rainbow Prince The Secret Of The Talking Bird The Silent Teacher The Tiger And The Woodpecker The Tiger Eater Thugsen Vidyut Chora Vikramaditya's Throne</p> <p>BRAVEHEARTS <i>Stirring tales of brave men and women of India</i></p> <p>A Nation Awakes Ahilyabai Holkar Ajatashatru Akbar Amar Singh Rathor Ashoka Babur Bagha Jatin Bajirao I</p>	<p>Baladitya And Yashodharma Balban Banda Bahadur Bappa Rawal Beni Madho And Pir Ali Bhagat Singh Bidhi Chand Bimbisara Chand Bibi Chandra Shekhar Azad Chandragupta Maurya Chennamma Of Keladi Dara Shukho And Aurangzeb Durgadas Ellora Caves Hakka And Bukka Hari Singh Nalwa Harsha Hemu Humayun Jahangir Jallianwala Bagh Kalpana Chawla Kochunni Krishnadeva Raya Kunwar Singh Lachit Barphukan Lalitaditya Mangal Pande Noor Jahan Padmini Panna And Hadi Rani Paurava And Alexander Prithviraj Chauhan Raja Bhoja Raja Raja Chola Rana Kumbha Rana Pratap Rana Sanga Rani Abbakka Rani Durgavati Rani Of Jhansi Ranjit Singh Rash Bihari Bose Roopmati Sambhaji Samudra Gupta Sea Route To India Shah Jahan Shalivahana Shantala Sher Shah Shivaji Subhas Chandra Bose Sultana Razia Surya Sen Tachcholi Othenan Tales Of Shivaji Tanaji Tenzing Norgay The Historic City Of Delhi The Rani Of Kittur Tipu Sultan Veer Hammir Veer Savarkar Velu Thampi Vikramaditya</p> <p>CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS <i>(New Category) The best of modern Indian literature</i></p> <p>The Blue Umbrella</p>
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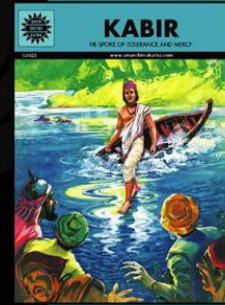
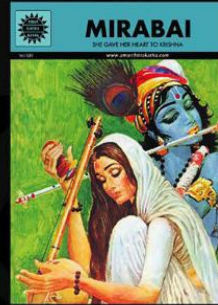
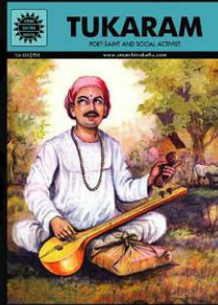
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PURANDARA DASA

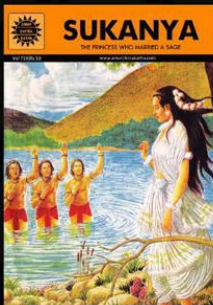
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Purandara Dasa is often called "the father of Carnatic music". One of his compositions is the very first song taught to students of Carnatic music even today. Purandara belonged to a school of saint-philosophers, called Dasakuta, or the society of Dasas. He travelled widely, singing his songs. His music helped him to communicate with god, as well as with the hearts of his fellow human beings.

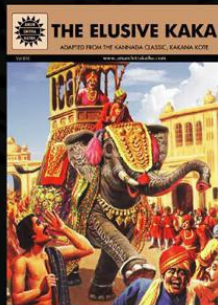
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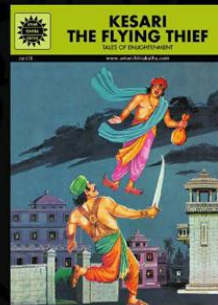
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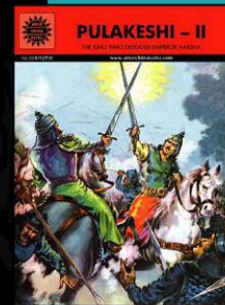
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